

On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast Region

Summer 2002

July 2002

NY Seabees Build Camp X-Ray in Cuba

Mobilized Northeast Seabees play key role building Guantanamo detention facilities

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 2nd NCB

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA -About 140 Navy Seabees, including Reservists from NRC Albany, NY, NRC Glens Falls, NY, and NRC Watertown NY, recently completed the first phase of temporary detention facility construction for Taliban and al-Qaida detainees at Camp X-Ray. The 320 units are now holding 300 detainees.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 133 and 3 were assigned to build 120 of the units, completed ahead of schedule Feb. 2. About 40 Marines from the 8th Engineer Support Battalion worked alongside Seabees as part of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment Forward.

Seabees constructed guard towers and wooden buildings called Southeast Asia Huts (SEAhuts) at Camp X-Ray and installed lighting. The Seabees also provided quality



Photo by PH1 Michael W. Pendegrass

A U.S. Navy Seabee, assigned to NMCB 2, adjusts newly-strung razor wire along one of the perimeter fences at "Camp X-Ray" in Guantanamo.

of life improvements to Tent City, where Army and Marine guards are currently living on a hill overlooking the detention facility. "The Seabee work ethic is unsurpassed . . . It's part of our culture," said CDR Louis V. Cariello, commander of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment Forward. "Coming in ahead of schedule means a lot to them."

NMCB 133 Seabees from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; Guam, and Andros Island (including 14 Reservists) and NMCB 3 Seabees from Norfolk, Va.; Camp Lejeune N.C.; and Rota, Spain, joined forces under the 22nd Regiment along with about 20 NMCB 3 Seabees already working in Guantanamo Bay. Eight Steelworkers were

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Guantanamo (Continued from page 1)

called in from Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 to help with detention facility construction.

Bringing such a diverse group together for a time-sensitive and critical mission was a challenge. "The high tempo and mission focus helped pull everyone together as the 22nd Regiment Forward," CDR Cariello said. "There was a lot of pressure to get the cells completed because detainees were getting flown in here from Kandahar." Arrival of the first detainees only served to reinforce Seabees' commitment, he added. Known as a haven for iguanas and banana rats, the terrain and climate of Guantanamo Bay presents its own challenges. With little shade from the sun, work crews drink plenty of water and use sun protection as temperatures reach the mid-80s daily. Their efforts have paid off, as there have been no heat stress cases to date.

Although not technically part of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment Forward, 17 Seabees from Construction Battalion Units (CBUs) 423 and 411 also played a major role. They assisted Fleet Hospital Unit 20 erect a 7,500 square-foot hospital in just five days. The facility includes

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Admiral's Corner



RADM Nolan speaks to Sailors at NRC White River Junction, Vermont.

With the first days of summer upon us we're moving out on several fronts. We're adjusting the mobilization to better be prepared for the long-haul, and the picture looks like this: We currently have 800 mobilized down from a high of 994. We anticipate that that number will continue to fall.

Forcewide, however, we expect to call 2-3,000 reliefs later this Summer for those currently serving, so although our overall numbers of Sailors mobilized are falling, we will continue to mobilize some additional Sailors.

For those mobilized, STAY STRONG and do the job RIGHT! For everyone else,

be READY TO SERVE and make sure we take the BEST care possible of the families of those mobilized! FAMILY!

REDCOM Northeast is leading the way for the nation in recruiting. Our initiatives, which started in Buffalo, are breaking down the barriers between USN and USNR recruiters, and we're opening schools to Navy recruiter visits region-wide. GREAT WORK! Let's do more on referrals!

We continue to move out on our goals so let's start the final sprint of this fiscal year. GET READY for the August Advancement Exams! Take care of all of your mobilization requirements and TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN! Make sure we take care of each unit member and make retention our strength.

Finally, I've made meeting you my priority and, after Saturday, I'll have visited 16 of our 20 Centers once and several others twice. Seeing you where you train has been the BEST! Congratulations to all who have earned recent promotions and BZ to the teams that go above and beyond in teaching our future leaders. YOU ARE ALL MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

“You Can’t Fight if You Can’t Bite”: Dentists win Bilger

By JOSHUA Ron Kuzlik, USNR,
NR NAVINFO NY 102

Bronx, NY – Proving the point that “You Can’t Fight if You Can’t Bite,” NR Naval Dental Clinic Bethesda Det Bravo, Bronx has been awarded the Leo V. Bilger Award, an annual award given to Naval Reserve units for achieving a high level of mission effectiveness and accomplishment. The unit “drills” at NRC Bronx, located in the Ft. Schuyler section of the Bronx, NY. It is responsible for maintaining dental readiness for more than 900 reservists who drill at the Bronx center.

Commanding Officer of the unit, Commander Kenneth Green, in praising his unit’s hard work over the last year, said “The award is due to the extraordinary efforts of all of the personnel – officers and enlisted – who set their sights on a goal and achieved it.”

The unit set out to meet the goal laid forth by Rear Admiral Roger T. Nolan, commanding officer of Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast: Ninety-five percent dental readiness for all drilling members.

Given that Naval Reserve Center Bronx is the largest reserve center in the northeast, this was no small mission to undertake.



COMNAVRESFOR Force Dental Officer RADM Maurice B. Hill, DC, USNR, conducts a routine examination on the bicusps of HM3 Alicia Marlow, USNR, during his recent visit to NRC Bronx

“Rear Admiral Nolan set us a lofty goal,” explains Cdr. Green, “but I give all the credit to the personnel here for meeting it.”

The nine people in the unit – four doctors and five enlisted personnel – all work in the dental field in their civilian occupations, as both dentists and dental hygienists.

“The professionalism of each member helped us ensure that more than 95 percent of the reservists at Naval Reserve Center Bronx are dental ready for mobilization should they be called to active duty,” Cdr. Green added.

Dental readiness is a key component to making sure a reservist is ready for mobi-

lization. Many commands do not have dentists available and, should a severe problem occur after a reservist reports to his or her duty station, the impact of the mission could be seriously hampered.

To ensure a reservist is dental ready, each member must undergo an annual examination, during which their dental health is classified into one of four categories. Classes One and Two mean the reservist is qualified for mobilization. Classes Three and Four indicate that one or more potential problems exist and the reservist is not qualified for mobilization until they receive proper treatment and are reclassified to a Class Two or above.

There is No Use for Government Card Abuse - 6 Tips You Can Use

By JO2 David Hamilton, USNR

Do you know your limits when using the Government Card? Do you know the difference between a Government Card and a credit card? Defense officials are on the trail of anyone who hasn't paid their government travel credit card bill and those who've misused government purchase cards. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "is moving forcefully" to correct department travel and purchase credit card problems, "which he considers to be very serious," Dov S. Zakheim Department of Defense (DoD) Comptroller said in a Pentagon press briefing.

Defense officials say users' current delinquency rate on travel cards is 11.7 percent and 3 percent for centrally billed purchase card accounts. Accounts are considered delinquent when payment is not made within 60 days. Punishment for card misuse, fraud and abuse include termination of DoD employment, imprisonment, probation, restitution, fines and demotion, officials said.

Zakheim called the credit card programs a major and

essential part of DoD's efforts to improve its business practices. The cards cut costs, free up funds for critical requirements and create the potential for accountability.

"The point is we do prosecute," Zakheim stressed. "We do get convictions, and people do pay either in jail time or in money or both."

Since April 2001, defense officials have taken steps to reduce misuse, fraud and abuse and have succeeded in cutting the total delinquent amount from \$20 million to about \$6.9 million. "No abuse is acceptable and no delinquency is acceptable," said Zakheim.

Do not plan on skipping town anytime soon because Defense officials are looking at ways to make both individuals and supervisors responsible for fraudulent charges. "The best way to encourage people to do things properly is if they know it's ultimately going to come out of their pocket," said Zakheim.

Officials are also considering a way for the government to take some of the money out

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Government Credit Card Tips to avoid Trouble

Tip#1 Make minimum use of cash withdrawals at ATM sites. Cash should be used in cases where expenses can not be charged.

Tip#2 Make maximum use of GTCC'S charge feature for expenses incurred on official trips.

Tip#3 Only use your GTCC when on official reimbursable orders, or with permission of your Commanding Officer.

Tip#4 When on orders travel within your means. Look into your per diem rate before traveling.

Tip#5 Inquire periodically as to the status of your claim. Do not assume everything is going smoothly with your claim. A polite inquiry 10 days after submitting the travel claim is not out of order.

Tip#6 When you receive your reimbursement, pay your GTCC bill with it. Don't use it for anything else. Don't "sock it away" in an account to earn interest, then pay your bill at the last minute.

Reserve SOY Hails from Northeast



IS1(AW) Kerstin Elledge, USNR

New Orleans, LA – IS1(AW) Kerstin Elledge has been selected as the 2002 Naval Reserve Sailor of the Year.

Vice Admiral Totushek, Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve Force during a ceremony held at the headquarters, May 3rd, 2002, made the announcement.

Petty Officer Elledge of Brunswick, ME. is assigned to Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Fort Devens, MA.

Elledge was selected from a group of five outstanding finalists exhibiting the highest caliber that the Reserve can enlist. The four Reservists that were not selected were

HM1 Edward W. Christensen of Little Silver, N.J. representing Naval Reserve Fleet Hospital, Fort Dix, N.J., EN1 (SW) Patrick J. Dunham of Lindenhurst, IL. representing Naval Reserve Center, Great Lakes, IL., CE1 (SCW) Michael D. Fox of Lake Worth, FL. representing Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, West Palm Beach, FL., and HM1 (AW/NAC) Glen V. Hilliard of Fort Worth, TX representing VR-59, Fort Worth, TX.

The finalists gathered in New Orleans for the Commander, Naval Reserve Force Finalist Recognition Week held each year to select an individual sailor possessing superior Naval merit and leadership skills.

Vice Admiral Totushek also presented each finalist the Navy Commendation Medal; a recent accolade acknowledging the excellence required to reach this stage of the competition.

“To be here in the first place, we (finalists) had to excel in our jobs and be hard chargers,” said a jubilant Elledge, “Who can lead the leaders?”, I wondered.

When my name was announced, I had to think twice that it was actually me.”

Elledge has served in the Naval Reserve for over fifteen years and is married to AZC Steven Elledge assigned to VP-92, Brunswick, ME. When not on Reserve duty, Elledge is Mother to three children and teaches German at Denning High School in Portland, ME.

Petty Officer Elledge has earned numerous awards including two Joint Service Achievement Medals, three Naval Meritorious Service Awards, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Aviation Enlisted Warfare Specialist. Elledge also holds a BA in History, a BA in German and a MS in Education.

“This is a great honor,” remarked Elledge, “two of my students are considering joining the Navy when they finish school. This will assure them, not only is it an ideal path to take, but that almost anything is possible if you try.”

Petty Officer Elledge will be meritoriously promoted to Chief Petty Officer status at the Sailor of the Year Week, to be held in early July, 2002 in Washington, D.C.

MDSU Reserve Divers Chill Out



Photo by PH1/DV Clifford Ryan

Members of MDSU2 Det 101 (Newport, RI) and MDSU2 Det 507 (Norfolk, VA) assemble outside their dive-site during ICE EX 02

Annually, the Canadian Forces (CF) Fleet Diving Unit (FDU) hosts an international Ice Diving Exercise in Quebec City, PQ, Canada. Military divers from all over the world are invited to participate in this exercise, which serves as a forum for cross training and education. There were approximately 50 non-Canadian participants including members from Norway, Belgium, The United Kingdom, US Navy and Connecticut State Police. Members from the units represented diving communities such as Salvage, Combat Diving, EOD, Anti-Mine and Fleet Support.

US Naval Reserve members from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two (MDSU 2) Detachment 101 (Newport, RI) and 507 (Norfolk, VA)

participated along side members of the gaining command, MDSU2, Little Creek, VA. The initial training period was 28 January thru 1 February 2002.

Training accomplished during the one-week period included logistics, site selection and preparation, equipment usage and dive supervision. During the period, many dives were conducted as well as an emergency drill simulating a diving casualty and evacuation procedures using helicopter support provided by Canadian Forces.

LCDR Dan Daglio, OIC for MDSU2 Det 101, who participated in the exercise, commented that "This is a great opportunity to participate in real-life conditions and learn from our NATO partners."

Credit Cards (Continued from page 4)

of an employee's pay and send it directly to the bank for the credit card bill. They're also looking at making credit card abuse a specific offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They're looking at suspending security clearances; increasing prosecution and possibly using state and local courts to prosecute; accelerating electronic billing for purchase cards; and improving training.

"You have to convince people that this is a major concern," said Zakheim. The kind of money that can be lost this way is money that can be spent on readiness. It's not that people do not want to be responsible. It's sometimes that they need to be trained how to be responsible," said Zakheim.

On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast Region

RADM Roger T. Nolan, USNR

Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Northeast

LCDR Randy Britton, USNR

Public Affairs Officer, REDCOM Northeast; Editor, On Watch

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CMC's Corner

This is as good an opportunity as any to reiterate to all hands our Command Philosophy:

Our HISTORY..... Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast encompasses an area representing the very cradle of the U.S. Navy. From Boston, home of the Constitution, to Newport, home of the War College, to Groton, home of the submarine school, to Whitehall, NY, birthplace of the Navy itself, we represent a force of more than 7000 reservists READY TO SERVE. We are proud to be inheritors of the traditions of Lexington and Concord.

Our MOTTO... READY TO SERVE!!

Our MISSION... READINESS!

Our FOCUS... We achieve our readiness through comprehensive unit training, professional development and family inclusiveness.

Our GAINING COMMANDS.. We sustain our readiness through total and seamless integration with our respective gaining commands. We want to be "their

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Stay Fit with New PRT Overhaul

In response to feedback from the fleet and reservists, the Navy is making changes to Physical Readiness Test (PRT) standards. Starting in October 2002, reservists from REDCOM Northeast will get a taste of the changes for the first time. The age groups will be in five-year increments instead of the current 10-year groups, and the overall score will be based on an average of an individual event scores.

"I enjoy exercising and keep myself in good shape, but 10 years is a wide gap to keep up with the standards," said 29-year old ENS Anna Marie Janning of Navy Information Bureau 101 of Newport, Rhode Island. Age groups will now be in five-year increments (20-24, 25-29, 30-34, etc.) rather than the 10-year groups under the current instruction. "I am glad they have narrowed the gap between age groups. It not only allows me to challenge myself individually, but realistically compete against someone closer in age," said JO2 David Hamilton of Albany, New York.

"The lowest score as your overall score did not go over well with the fleet and re-

servists, so we are going to average scoring," said Capt. Tim Cepak, deputy assistant commander of Navy Personnel Command for Personal Readiness and Community Support. "We're going to maintain the same goal-oriented approach to scoring for individual events, but each goal will have a numerical value assigned to them. No one event is going to weighed over the other."

The revised Physical readiness Program instruction (OPNAVINST 6110.1G) is not finalized; however, the new PRT scoring table is available online at **www.mwr.navy.mil/mw-prgms/missup.htm**.

The new instruction will also establish a probationary performance category. Sailors from REDCOM Northeast whose overall score falls into this category will be enrolled in their command's Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP). Under the current system, a score of satisfactory or marginal on any individual event is cause for enrollment in FEP.

"The whole purpose of the test is to give an individual an

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Photo by: CDR(Sel) Daniel R. Pionk, SC, USNR

EN2 Steven Ware (left) and EN2 Walter Ames both of CART D201 perform safety checks prior to starting an MCDS diesel module.

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reserves", ready to serve without hesitation anywhere, anytime.

Our SAILORS..... We take care of our Sailors' individual military needs as if each one of them were an Admiral. By taking care of your Sailors through "Admiral's care", you are taking care of me.

Our TEAMWORK..... Everyone wants to be on a winning team. Train everyone on your team for their mission, not just those on the "varsity squad." In sports parlance, you must "develop your bench" as your team is only as strong as your weakest player. Keep in mind that your "bench" will comprise some future Commanding Officer's "starting lineup".

New PRT (Continued from page 7)

idea where they are today so they can work with the command fitness leader to find out what they can do to improve," said Cepak.

Although changes to the test are of primary interest, Sailors shouldn't lose sight of the fact that the purpose of the Physical Readiness Program is to promote fitness and good health. "If you get into the habit of a fitness lifestyle, as you age, you will stay young," Cepak added. "You want to be able to enjoy your retirement, and to do that, you need to be physically active."

For more information regarding the navy Physical Readiness Program, go to www.mwr.navy.mil.

Reserve CART Units Train For RIMPAC 2002

By CDR (sel) Daniel R. Pionk, Supply Corps, USNR

Naval Reservists from the Navy's Cargo Afloat Rig Teams, or CARTs, conducted training recently at the Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, Merchant Ship Naval Augmentation Program UNREP Center in Earle, NJ. The two units, CART D201 Portland, ME and CART G113 Youngstown, OH, will both augment a Ready Reserve Force (RRF) Ship during RIMPAC 2002 later this year and provide UNREP and VERTREP services to U.S. and foreign flagged naval vessels participating in the exercise.

The training was a combined re-certification of Standard Tensioned Replenishment Alongside Methods (STREAM) and a joint training exercise for both units in preparation for the RIMPAC 2002 exercise. The four-day intense training allowed both units to forge relationships and work through the watchbill for the exercise both which will pay huge dividends during the exercise.

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RIMPAC 2002 (Continued from page 8)

The training involved an Operational Readiness Assessment scenario from Day 1 requiring the units to prepare for an UNREP in 90 minutes upon assembling as one unit. In addition, night-time training and operations were conducted with the instructors providing challenging scenarios to intensify the training. The results were recertification for both units as well as operational readiness for RIMPAC 2002. Participating in RIMPAC 2002 will be a milestone for the Military Sealift Command's (MSC) CART program. Last year, the two units also set a milestone for MSC by performing the first UNREP between an RRF Ship and an Air Craft Carrier, the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72).

Cargo Afloat Rig Teams augment RRF ships that have the Modular Cargo Delivery Station (MCDS) installed and provide Underway Replenishment capabilities aboard the RRF ships. The reservists handle all above-deck cargo rigging and handling duties for the Underway Replenishments and operate the MCDS. The teams are capable of transferring 30 loads per hour per station for two stations while the two ships

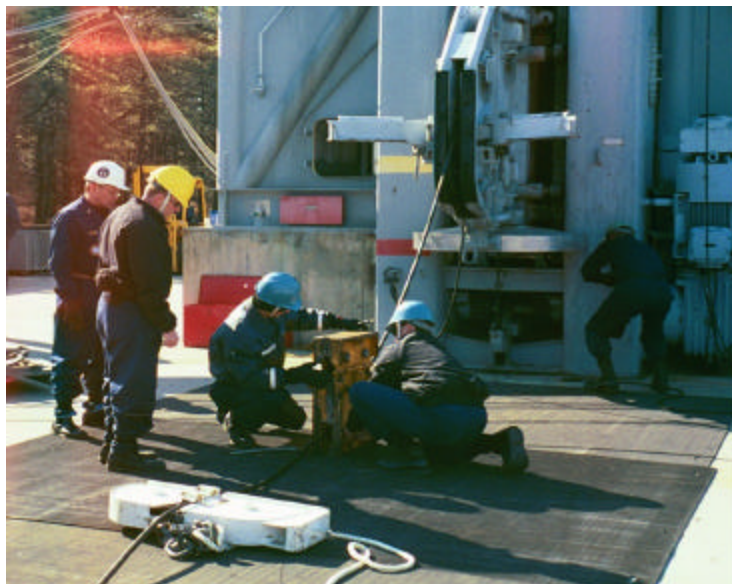


Photo by CDR(Sel) Daniel R. Pionk, SC, USNR

Rig Captain BM2 Michael Newton provides direction to members of his Rig Team as they hook up the STREAM UNREP Trolley .

are connected, or 30 Vertical Replenishment loads per hour via helicopter. The wartime mission of CART units is to augment RRF ships and re-supply cargo ships or combatants at sea with ammunition or other cargo. The combatants remain in Theatre while the RRF ship and CART return for another load-out of ammunition or cargo.

Reservists that make up the CART teams are trained on Standard Tensioned Replenishment Alongside Methods (STREAM), Material Handling Equipment, Ordnance Handling Equipment, Cargo Handling and Stowage, Vertical Replenishment Operations, Basic Seamanship, and other related courses at the Military Sealift Command's

Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force (NFAF) Merchant Ship Naval Augmentation Program (MSNAP) UNREP Center in Earle, NJ.

The Officers-in-Charge for the units are CDR(Sel) Daniel Pionk (CART D201) and CDR(Sel) Bill Neelans (CART G113). Both officers will serve as OICs during the RIMPAC 2002 exercise. For further information concerning the MCDS MSNAP program and CART opportunities please call MSC NFAF MSNAP UNREP Detachment Earle's Director at (732) 866-2094.



4th FSSG Det 4 Corpsmen and Docs treat 12,000 in Nicaragua



HM3 Laurie A. Cuoco and colleague perform a field surgery in Chontales Nicaragua, during Operation New Horizons 2002.

**By JOSN Michelle Carter, USNR
Fleet Hospital Detachment 14**

Chontales Nicaragua - It was an experience not easily forgotten for Naval Reserve 4th Medical Battalion, FSSG (Force Service Support Group) SSCOB (Surgical Company Bravo) Detachment 4, Fort Dix, NJ who executed the deployment of health services, which commenced on March 15, 2002 through April 1, 2002 to Chontales Nicaragua, called Operation New Horizons 2002.

Operation New Horizons 2002 is a subcomponent evolution of Joint Task Force, which is being conducted under the United States South-

ern Command (USCINCSO) and brought together a support team of 33 doctors, nurses, dental and medical corpsman. This Joint Task Force was an effort of Army, Navy, Marines and Air force personnel.

During this annual training exercise, 4th FSSG Det 4's mission and purpose was to provide health service support (HSS) operations, implement an effective health care delivery system and provide humanitarian health care.

4th FSSG Det 4 assimilated and worked as a primary care augmentation team/surgical company and facilitated opportunities in the areas of

triage, casualty evacuation, medical regulation, hospitalization, medical supply and preventive medicine for patients with routine and urgent, and non-life threatening conditions.

4th FSSG Det 4 performed physical assessments, taught pre-natal, infant care, and personal hygiene procedures. Some of the medical conditions treated were incision and drainage of abscesses, fungal infections, ear infections, upper respiratory, hypertension screening, diabetes and full physical examinations. Most importantly expressed, was teaching preventive care and maintenance. Another mission of the operation was to provide eyeglasses to many in need.

"We operated and performed 75 field surgeries, treated a total of 12,000 patients and distributed 24,000 prescriptions. Some of the people there had never seen a doctor in their whole lives because they could not afford it. We even removed a bullet from a man who fought in the Sandinista Revolution from 20 years ago. Injuries too severe were referred to the host nation clinics or hospitals," says Commanding Officer; Cmdr. Christine M. Hunt of 4th FSSG Det 4.

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Petty Officer Bregman from 4th FSSG Det 4 examines a Nicaraguan boy in Chontales Nicaragua, during Operation New Horizons 2002.

Docs (Continued from page 10)

Said HM3 Laurie A. Cuoco, "The people were truly gracious, affectionate and really appreciated our help. You could see the excitement in their eyes. Some were very cautious, but we earned their trust. We contributed to well being. Without a doubt it makes it a very fulfilling and worthwhile mission. There was really no better experience, because it's real life. We learned how to work together and it greatly prepared us for the real thing. We learned a lot about the culture, the people, how to cope, and a lot about ourselves."

Cmdr Hunt credits the bulk of "making it happen" to the Corpsman's' excellent skills and training. "All surgeries were supervised by medical officers and carried out by the

Navy Corpsmen. Everyone is a valuable asset. We work together as one. Dedication and care, regardless to the situations at hand, greatly contributes towards a highly successful team.

"I feel it is important that we continue funding these exercises. Not only do these mobilization exercises prepare us for real life situations, by delivering much needed medical care in adverse conditions; it helps us train to do all the things we would do if we went to war, and we also learned how to work, respect, and train with other branches of service and all branches of the military. Without these exercises, the training we need would not be accomplished."

What makes 4th FSSG Det 4 unique? The unit has been

assigned to numerous humanitarian places all over the world. . The unit has prior training experiences such as "Operation Fair Winds" in Haiti, "Operation Lone Star" in Texas, and Alaska to name a few.

From the result of 4th FSSG Det 4's unit excellence, hard work and camaraderie, they have received the W.K. Brown and the Leo V. Bilger award. 4th FSSG Det 4 has developed a basic first aid course that they teach to other units. Simply put, they work hard.

Nicaragua was mainly a Spanish colony during the 1520's and completely independent in 1821. At one time Managua, which is the capital, was totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1972. Hurricane Mitch hardest hit the country in 1998. Nicaragua is best known in the 1979 Sandinista revolution and subsequent Contra war.

4th FSSG Det 4 provided quality health service to thousands in need and learned more efficient and effective pathways and a coordination of efforts with other services and countries that made a difference. It was not just a job, but also one of the best kinds of experience—giving!

Recruiters and SEALs Rebuild Needy Homes

Buffalo, NY - On Saturday, April 27th, volunteers in the "Rebuilding Together", Stamford/Greenwich program, sponsored by the Navy League Western Connecticut Council and NRD Buffalo RDAC, helped renovate the home of Julia Cicarelli, an 83-year old widow who lives in Stamford, CT. Volunteers included U.S. Navy Recruiters, Navy SEALs, SEAL candidates, Navy League members, Navy veterans and Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC) members from NRD Buffalo. Recruiters and DEPPers were from Zone 5, representing Middletown, Peekskill and Kingston in NY and Zone 7, representing Danbury, Bridgeport and New Haven in CT.

"Rebuilding Together", the successor to "Christmas in April", is an annual, community-based national program in which volunteers work together on the last Saturday in April to rehabilitate houses of low income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled. A major goal is to keep them living in warmth, safety and indepen-



Photo by YNI Toole, NRC Buffalo

Recruiters, SEALs, SEAL candidates, Navy League members, veterans and RDAC members from NRD Buffalo renovate homes for disabled.

dence. Referrals of needy homeowners come from churches, synagogues, social service agencies, community organizations, neighborhood associations and private individuals.

Of the 49 states and 480 municipalities involved in "Rebuilding Together", the Connecticut program, originated in 1991, is the first one in the nation to be supported by a Navy organization. Since its inception, the Stamford/Greenwich program has enlisted more than 8,300 volunteers who've donated over 65,000 hours of their time and talent to rehabilitate 333 homes in this area.

This year, a total of 50 volunteers, all involved with the Navy, applied their skills, en-

ergies and enthusiasm to renovate Julia Cicarelli's home and yard. This included sanding and painting most of the home's interior, cleaning and raking the entire yard and flower beds, pruning trees and shrubs, cleaning out the garage, minor plumbing and carpentry and building a small greenhouse.

The program is organized and conducted under the leadership of Andrew Bisset, a Naval Reserve Captain, Navy SEAL, RDAC member and Navy League Council Board member, who is also on the Reserve staff of Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, CA. Key members of his support staff include Navy Recruiter, Shawn Tarasuik, AE2 (AW/NAC/

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Reservists Promote Tomorrow's Navy at Fleet Week 2002 in NYC



The Navy's first-ever Afloat Laboratory, nicknamed Starfish (YP-679)

**By SN Geraldine Hawkins,
NAVINFO East 102, New York**

New York, New York - A robot lobster is not something that most people expect to encounter aboard a Navy ship, even at New York City's Fleet Week - but that was just one of the exotic specimens of state-of-the-art technology aboard the Office of Naval Research's (ONR) flagship during May 22-28 annual salute the military.

The Navy's first-ever Afloat Laboratory, a unique ship used for ONR-sponsored science programs, is nicknamed Starfish (YP-679) because of its groundbreaking, self-healing ship system technology. Just as a starfish is able to regenerate a new leg, the floating lab is able to restore

damaged equipment in seconds automatically through a network of computer sensors.

ONR's Starfish, with her civilian crew, depended on the more than 400 hours of contributory support from a "crew" of seven Naval Reservists at Fleet Week. To the guests of the Navy, young and old, there was no question that this is the Navy's elite science and technology platform.

"This has been a wonderful experience," said Chief Warrant Officer Joe Greer, a reservist with Military Sealift Command Japan 111 in Oklahoma City. Greer's duties aboard Starfish included standing watch and escorting

media, educating Distinguished Visitors and hundreds of curious public.

The Reservists, hailing from units like Combat Camera, Mobile Public Affairs Team and Navy Office of Information "wowed" streaming visitors with examples of cutting-edge technology.

ONR-sponsored research is dedicated to developing technology that maintains optimal security and enhanced operations of Naval service. Visitors can view images from a periscope camera that monitors a full 360-degree circle around a ship. They learned how a sea floor Bio-fuel cell charges batteries by generating electricity from energy created by tiny microbes that rain down on the ocean's floor and remote-controlled monitors that divers attach to whales to provide data which helps avoid undersea collisions with these natural neighbors.

The Navy spends more dollars for maritime research than any other organization in the world. PH2 Tyrone Mitchell, whose unit is based at NASHRB Willow Grove, Pa., lent a hand. Mitchell helped provide audio/video support for the Afloat Lab, and shot pictures for ONR. "I'm here as another hand,"

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Fleet Week (Continued from page 13)

he said modestly, helping with the crew, materials, and setting up promotions.”

Senior PAO Capt. Woody Berzins worked the crowds and both the military and civilian media.

One of the strange-looking gadgets developed in partnership with Northeastern University that attracted some of the most inquisitive glances is the Robo Lobster.

“To detect sea mines, we needed something that could crawl around autonomously in shallow, rocky waters,” Capt. Berzins said. “What can do that best is what Mother Nature perfected – a lobster! Robo Lobster has his own sensors,” he explained, pointing out the mechanical antennae and pads where lobster claws are seen. The Robo Lobster uses artificial intelligence to make a potentially hazardous zone safe for special operations crews.

Scientists at the University of South Florida working under ONR funding demonstrated urban search-and-rescue robots that helped in the World Trade Center recovery effort. ONR program officer and naval aviator, Lt.Cmdr. David Street, explained the workings of a flight vest

which functions as a personal air conditioner and a helmet with improved protection for a pilot’s eyes and ears. Marines aboard Starfish demonstrated the way in which sensors and cameras on Dragon Eye, a small airplane launched by hand, and Dragon Runner, its land-based counterpart, designed to save lives by surveying enemy fortifications before troops are deployed into battle.

Visitors, children and adults alike were encouraged to visit ONR’s website at www.onr.navy.mil to ask questions of the cyber scientist or apply for research grants.

In the mid-80s, US Naval Academy instructors originally used Starfish, a Yard Patrol (YP) craft, to teach Midshipmen basic seamanship and navigation. Nearly 15 years later, it fell into disrepair and officials set it aside for surplus parts. When the Office of Naval Research procured the YP in 1999, it took hundreds of man hours to restore the hull and hundreds more to outfit the vessel with the cutting edge technology that makes the craft the attraction that it is today.



NC1’s Corner

Sailors can now apply for online change of rate

Advancement opportunity can be quickly improved through a change of rate for some drilling Reservists faced with decreased advancement opportunities, due to overmanning in their ratings.

The Naval Reserve has initiated a program called “Enhance Change of Rate” to streamline the process for Reservists. Some of you may have already received a personal letter from VADM Totushek if you were affected by this program.

The Enhance Change of Rate interactive program is accessible on the Naval Reserve Web site at www.navres.navy.mil. Interested Reservists can seek out assistance in navigating this Web through a local Reserve recruiter.

The process is simple. Using the interactive site, Sailors can select a new rate and verify qualification, then complete an application, download and forward it to their local Naval Reserve Activity for an endorsement.

(Continued on page 17)

Quincy Seabees Train at Lejune



BU2 Campagna and EOCN Nouna from NRC Quincy's Seabee Unit practice with M-203 Grenade Launcher at Camp Lejune, NC.

**By LCDR Michael Sumerall,
USN, XO, NRC Quincy**

The Naval-Marine Construction battalion assigned to NRC Quincy performed a comprehensive Annual Training Exercise at Camp Lejune from March 02-16, 2002. Activities were coordinated by LCDR Shepard, with assistance from LTJG Roche, ENS SImm and CUCM Merritt. The Exercise Leading Petty Officer was UT1 Benoit and the Platoon Leader was CM1 Fogel. The focus for this year's AT was "Military Skills": Weapons Training, Tactical Communications, NBC Drills/Confidence Course, and specialized Squad Leader instruction.

A: Weapons Training:

Unit members practiced with weapons on the firing range, including the use and familiarization with the M-203 grenade launcher, the M-19 autogrenade launcher, M-16 rifles and the .50 cal. machine gun.

B: Tactical Communications:

Tactical Communication training involved wiring radios with CYZ-10 encryption devices and setting up a base camp for area communication. Members practiced with field phones using lines with various communication priorities and set up an antenna farm necessary to satisfy the range requirements.

C: NBC Drills:

Each member donned a full NBC protective suit and tested themselves in the "Gas Chamber" using tear gas. All members, also, participated in the "confidence course" where they demonstrated their agility on rope nets, rope climbs, and an obstacle course with tires, ramps and water pits.

D: Squad leader training:

Several Petty Officers in the unit, including EO1 Kenneddy, CM2 Kalver, BU2 Campagna and BU3 Stone attended the specialized training for Squad Leaders. This allowed leaders to practice clearing a mine field and setting up camp in the field with defenses to ward off mock attacks from the Marines trying to penetrate their secured perimeter.

Nearly 800 other Seabees from the 7th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) also participating in a four-week military training exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune that began Feb. 21 and ran through March 22.

Participating units this year included the 7th NCR, Newport, R.I.; Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21, Lakehurst, N.J.; NMCB 27, Brunswick, Maine; and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202, New London, Conn.

Guantanamo (Continued from page 2)

an operating room, X-ray room and laboratory and is used to provide medical treatment for the detainees. The normal hospital configuration contains 36 beds, but was altered to 20 beds for security reasons. "Our job was to get the hospital up and running and to make things as comfortable as possible for the staff," said LT Jon Scott, officer-in-charge of CBU 423. "We assist the doctors and nurses with anything they need to make their jobs easier."

"Active, Reserve, east coast, west coast, CBUs, ACBs and Marines all rolled together with one purpose and focus on why we're here," CDR Cariello said. "It just shows what Marines and Seabees can do, and it's been a lot of fun to be a part of it." Despite the intense pace of work, the Seabees' morale has remained high, CDR Cariello said. "They're not getting a lot of time off, but they've been focused on the mission, and that's kept them motivated," he said.

"They might not realize it now, but they'll look back 20 or 30 years from now and think fondly of what they've done here. And they should," CDR Cariello said.

NY Reserve Seabees proudly raise New York flag in Cuba

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba—The New York City flag that traveled to Afghanistan with Navy Seabees (in honor of those lost at the World Trade Center) has returned to the Reservist who originally received it from New York City's Police Department.

CE2 Joseph McShea is one of 14 members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Reserve augment unit working with about 125 active duty Seabees from NMCB 133 and NMCB 3 in Guantanamo Bay. He is working in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba helping build facilities to hold Taliban and al-Qaida detainees. He and two other members of his Reserve unit hoisted the flag during a ceremony at Camp X-Ray on Friday, March 8.

CE2 McShea was working as an electrician for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in New York City on Sept. 11 and was headed upstate when attacks on the World Trade Center occurred. When it appeared



Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133's Reserve augment unit raise a New York flag over the skies of Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay.

Photo by Sgt. Joshua S. Higgins

that a local water reservoir might be the next target, he helped fortify the area. The next day, McShea went to ground zero with seven other members of his Reserve unit and worked on bucket brigades, digging by hand to try to find survivors. It was a scene unlike anything he had ever seen.

"The shock of the collapse was so great, everything was just pulverized to nothing bigger than a quarter," CE2 McShea said. "You couldn't recognize what anything was."

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NYC Flag *(Continued from page 16)*

McShea worked at the site for a day and a half. He explained that a horn would sound when pieces appeared ready to fall.

"When that horn sounded, you'd run—you'd run like a little kid—you'd run for your life," he said. "You realized quickly that this was a dangerous, dangerous place."

When New York City Police LT Gene Sass, a retired Navy Chief whom CE2 McShea had known for years, heard that McShea had been recalled to active duty, he gave him the New York City flag from DEP Police Precinct building and asked that it be flown in memory of the victims of the World Trade Center wherever his unit served.

NMCB 133 is based in Gulfport, Miss., but the Reserve augment unit is comprised entirely of members from New York. The Reserve augment unit joined NMCB 133 on deployment in Guam and presented the flag to the commanding officer, CDR Douglas Morton. The New York flag flew over the Seabee camp in Guam from mid-October until a detail deployed to Afghanistan in late November to repair a runway and a camp for U.S. forces.

BU1 Robert Tanner took the flag to the forward operating base at Camp Rhino, where U.S. Marines raised it on a bamboo pole. It also flew in front of the detention center the Seabees built in Kandahar.

During its travels, the flag also acquired a number of signatures including those of Army GEN Tommy R. Franks, Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command; BGEN James N. Mattis, Commanding General, Task Force 58; and RADM Charles R. Kubic, Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade.

When the unit returned from Afghanistan to Guam on Feb. 23, they brought back the flag. CDR Morton took it to Guantanamo Bay on his visit.

Needy Homes *(Continued from page 12)*

SAR), Barry McCabe, who was an officer with Underwater Demolition Team 21 in World War II and House Captain, Petty Officer 1st Class, Larry Miller, IT1.

"Our Rebuilding Together program", says Captain Bisset, "not only teaches these young men the important Navy core values of teamwork, leadership, commitment and hard work, but is an excellent opportunity for all of us to give something back to our community."

NC1's Corner *(Continued from page 14)*

A local recruiter then will submit the application electronically to PERS-812 via chain of command. PERS-812 will notify the individual Sailor via official letter once an application has been processed.

This new Enhanced Change of Rate program greatly increases the opportunities for advancement. Some new ratings could be eligible for bonuses, and the program helps the Naval Reserve better serve Fleet requirements.

For more information, visit the Manpower and Personnel Web site at:

www.navres.navy.mil/navres/n1.manpower, or contact NC1 Marie Harnett at comm:

401-841-3997/2454/2455 here at the Readiness Command.

Career Decision Survey

The Force needs members to update a Web-based survey that collects information on why dilling Reservists choose to remain or leave the Selected Reserve. The Naval Reserve Career Decision Survey (NR CDS) now includes survey questions on the mobilization and the demobilization process for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring

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Bravo Zulu

Navy Commendation Medal

CDR David Gearhart (NR DSCPHIL 101)
CDR Sarnoski (NR NWC(L) 401)
ATCS Joseph Scribellito (NRC Portland)
LCDR Daniel Colopietro (NSY)
LT Virginia Mojica (CO NRC WT)
DMC David Reininger (NSY)
SKC McShan (NRC Bronx)

USCG Commendation Medal

CDR Richard Carrington (NR VTU 0207)

Navy Achievement Medal

PN1 Patricia Burgett (NMCRC Manchester)
IT1 Amanda Porter (NR CLF MAST)
BM3 Razukeiewicz (NR CART E301)
CM1 Albano (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
EO1 Cole (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
UT3 Gingras (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
EO2 Kozacka (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
BU1 Smachetti (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
CE3 Thompson (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
UT2 Tortorelli (NR NMCB 27 Det 1127)
FN McCarthy (NMCRC Worcester)
DC1 Kinney (NSY)
ET1 (SS) Clauss (NR COMSUBLANT)
LT Kopchains (NR SEAL TEAM TWO)
YN1 Danielle Farley (NRC Portland)
PN2 Leonard Bell (NRC Portland)
BM1 Michael Conniff (NR CART E301)
SK3 Robert Verge (NR CART E301)
BU3 George Parkin (NMCB 27 Det 1027)
IT1 David Fitzmorris (FTG Mayport)
LTJG Donald Mathis (NR NAVICP Phila)
LNC Benjamin Smith (NMCB 21)
BU1 Lynn Stonier (VTU Horseheads)
IT1 Michael Haffett (SSB2 WHSE Co D)
SK1 Jeffrey Simmons (SSB2 WHSE Co C)
IT1 James Crowley (NR NSA LAMAD)
BM2 Edward Easterling (SSB2 WHSE)
MS2 John Alexander (NR NSA LAMAD)
SW2 Troy Bouton (NMCB 21)
MA3 David Kinnaird (NR NSA LAMAD)
UT3 David Knapp (NMCB 21)
ENCLawrence Basar (NRC Horseheads)
GYSGT Mims (USMC Staff Amityville)
MA2 Robert Nuber (NSY Portsmouth NH)
SH1 Sandra K. Mays (FISC NFK Det 104)
BU1 Christopher J. Wood (NAVACTS UK)
HM3 David C. Kreis (NAVHOSP 601)
PN1 Judy E. Bragg (NMCRC Rochester)
LT Stephen Glover (NMCRC Rochester)
MR1 Mark Schlaggel (NSY)
YNC Bonnie Roberts (NSY Portsmouth)
GM1 William Tivnan (ABFC CART E301)
BU2 Aviles (NMCB 1121)
UT1 Rocco Curcio (NMCB 27 DET 1727)
HM3 Amy Bissell-Aubin (NMC Portsmouth)
BM1 David Jimenez (SIMA EARLE DET)
SK2 Szymanski (SS B 2 FRT CO A)
SH1 Branco (NR VTU 0107)
OS1 Filanowski (NR DESRON 28)
PN1 Patricia Burgett (NMCRC Manchester)

IT1 Amanda Porter (NR CLF MAST)
DC1 Chase (NR DESRON 28)
BM2 Davis (NMCRC Plainville)
HM2 Witherspoon (NMCRC Plainville)
PN1 Raimondi (NR DESRON 28)

Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

SK2 Minni (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
CE3 Itterman (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
ET2 Kemnitz (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
SK2 Zeh (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
MS2 Hogan (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
SKC Dunham (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
MM2 Grzybowski (NMCRC Rochester NY)
HM3 Weeden (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
BM2 Barnard (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
BM1 Swift (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
EN2 Jackson (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
EO2 Walton (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
HM1 Pratt (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
BU1 Oathout (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
YN3 Strong (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
MM1 Hartman (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
BM1 Cummings (NMCRC Rochester, NY)
LNCS Shawn Moore (NAVACTS UK 402)
EMC Timothy Page (DESRON 22)
YN1 Leila Hufford (MSCO WESTMED)
JO2 Daniel Meaney (NAVACTS UK 402)
YN2 Jeffrey Barella (NMCB 21 DET 1721)
HM2 Judith Nuber (NAVHOSP 601)

Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

BMCN Joseph Foster (NR VTU 0118)
HM2 Phillip Callozzo (NR FH FT DIX)
GM2 Vicale (FH ADSW Detail)
IC1 Robert A. Berger (DESRON 22)
HM2 Roberts S. Smith (4th Mar Div 1/25)
BU2 Michael Blair (NMCB 27)
CM2 Jeffery Weaver (NMCB 27)
IT1 Methot (NR DESRON 28)

Letter of Commendation

ET3 Gaynor (NR FTG Mayport FL)
BU1 Chris Wood, (NAVACTS UK 402)
IT3 John Gilbert (MSCO WESTMED 102)
PN2 Lori Epperson (NRC Horseheads)
YN1 Steven E. Haffner (NMCB 21)
IT2 Vasquez (AOC Earle Det 6)

Letter of Appreciation

SW2 Daniel Shea (NR NMCB 27 Det 1027)
BU3 Gerald Perron (NR NMCB 27)
BU2 Sean Gardner (NR NMCB 27)
EO3 Paul Boudreau (NR NMCB 27)
HT2 Rooke (VTU 0207G)
UT3 William Frank (NMCB 27 DET 1727)
UT3 Edward Frank (NMCB 27 DET 1727)
UT2 Thomas Johnston Jr. (NMCB 27)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

YNC Bonnie Roberts (NSY Portsmouth)

NC1's Corner - (Continued from page 17)

Freedom Survey information will be used to make focused, fact based decisions to improve the Naval Reserve Force as well as the mobilization and demobilization process.

The web based survey requests information about Reservists' working conditions, military leadership, training, pay, and benefits that influence them in making career decisions about their Reserve service.

Data is gathered using a seven point scale ranging from "influence to stay" or "influence to leave". Naval Reservists are required to update the CDS at all major career decision points: reenlistment, extension, advancement, promotion, any transfer to a non-pay status and for mobilized Reservists at their six month mark and upon demobilization.

Commanding Officers and Career Counselors should ensure 100 percent completion by all Reservists at those major career points listed above at the following web address reservesurvey.nrpdc.mil

contact NC1 Marie Hartnett via email at: rcneccc@cnrf.navy.mil.